Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation of co-pending application Ser. No. 09/670,182, filed Sep. 26, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/922,905, filed Sep. 3, 1997, which issued on Sep. 26, 2000 as U.S. Pat. No. 6,123,688, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/699,998, filed Aug. 20, 1996, which issued on Aug. 4, 1998 as U.S. Pat. No. 5,788,677, in which priority is claimed to each of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/002,630, filed Aug. 22, 1995; U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/004,450, filed Sep. 29, 1995; and Provisional Application No. 60/005,895, filed Oct. 26, 1995. Priority under 35 U.S.C. .sctn.119(e) is also claimed herein to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/025,342, filed Sep. 3, 1996 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/050,797, filed Jun. 26, 1997. --

On page 11 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

-- After the fluid has been administered to the patient, the needle 16 is removed from the patient, or from the injection port. The needle 16

may then be retracted into the ampoule 10 by the user applying a firm compressive force, preferably in excess of the force required to expel fluid during an injection stroke, to the rear of the plunger rod 76. A retraction mechanism responsive to such compressive force, which is described hereinbelow, then causes the needle 16 to be withdrawn in to the ampoule 10 [[16]], so that the needle 16 no longer presents a sharp injury hazard. The injector assembly 12 is then removed from the ampoule 10, and the ampoule 10 may safely be discarded. It should be appreciated that the injector assembly 12 may subsequently be employed for connection with other ampoules of the same or similar type. --

On page 18 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The ampoule 210 comprises a main housing 214, including a barrel 214a and a reduced diameter forward portion 214c. External projections, such as finger stops 274 are formed along the exterior of the barrel 214a. A volume of medicinal fluid 220 is contained within the barrel 214a. A piston 218 is slidably positioned within the rear of the barrel 214a. The rear portion 256 of the piston 218 is positioned in abutment with a detent 244 formed in the barrel 214a for preventing the piston 218 from being removed from the rear of the barrel. A spring

housing assembly 228 is positioned within the forward portion 214c of the main housing 214 for selectively retaining a needle 216 in the projecting configuration. The forward portion of needle 216 is surrounded by a cap or sheath 219 that is removably attached to the exterior of the forward portion 214c of the housing 214. A plug member 224 is located or formed within the sheath 219 for receiving and sealing the tip of the needle 216. –